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CLASSIC



A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Spring 2004

A Japanese Lantern

Junko Nagao '70



Dr. Bruce Murphy
President

Soulful Excellence

Quality with Soul—the title immediately caught my eye. Written by Robert Benne, the director of the Center for Religion and Society at Roanoke College, the book seemed to capture my sense of Northwestern. As I opened the cover and began to read, I soon learned that, indeed, Benne's vision and Northwestern's mission are one: to bring together educational excellence and vital faith.

It is not an easy task. The tendency and temptation is to slide one way or the other, to become either a rigorous liberal arts or research institution or a first-rate Bible school. It is not that these alternatives are necessarily less difficult to achieve, but that in taking a more singular path—separating religion and culture—they avoid some of the tension and controversy that marks our society.

But for us this tension, however difficult to manage, is just the point. It was messy when God decided to enter our world in the person of Jesus. And then when Christ went not only to the temple but throughout the countryside, commenting on money and government and marriage and race and social justice as well as personal faith, messiness turned to confusion. The people were simply not ready for a God who was Lord of *all*. His death and resurrection were the concluding chaos—and, of course, the crowning glory. Now there was a way to overcome evil, end the tension, and reconcile religion and culture.

What do we mean by “quality with soul” at Northwestern? It is more than academic strength and personal piety—as critical as both are. It is the desire and commitment to see all of life with the reconciling eyes of Jesus Christ. What does it look like in the life of a graduate?

I invite you to read carefully the stories of Bob Bouwer and Junko Nagao in this issue of the *Classic*. “Northwestern,” Bob says, “helped me create a worldview of life change.” An internship in inner-city New Jersey sharpened the view, and today Chicago's south suburbs are reaping the benefit. Junko is a dear, longtime friend of Northwestern who is losing her physical sight but whose spiritual eyes, first focused while at NWC years ago, today see the world more clearly than ever.

These two have found their place—a way to use their gifts to meet the world's needs—as have so many of you. A way to strive for, and achieve, excellence: quality ... with soul.

Bruce Murphy

▼
“What do we mean by ‘quality with soul’ at Northwestern? It is more than academic strength and personal piety—as critical as both are. It is the desire and commitment to see all of life with the reconciling eyes of Jesus Christ.”
▲

Faculty appointed to interim leadership roles

Dr. Eric Elder, professor of business and economics, has been appointed to serve as interim vice president for academic affairs during the 2004-05 school year. A member of the faculty since 1985, he has been in the interim position since last fall, when Dr. Karen Cianci resigned.

A search committee for the permanent vice president is being formed, with the goal of having the successful candidate in place by the fall of 2005.

In addition, three faculty members will be serving as interim associate deans next year. Dr. Sara Tolsma, associate

professor of biology, will serve in a half-time role as associate dean of faculty/academic staff development. Dr. Kim Jongerius, associate professor of mathematics, will serve in a one-third-time role as associate dean of curriculum. Dr. Adrienne Forgette, associate professor of psychology, will serve in a one-third-time role as associate dean of assessment and accreditation.

Dr. Doug Carlson, professor of history, remains in his half-time post as associate dean of multicultural and off-campus programs.

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The *Classic* is published quarterly—in March, June, October and December—for alumni and friends of Northwestern College. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, the *Classic* was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni publication since 1930.

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In the summer *Classic* ...

The \$8.3 million DeWitt Theatre Arts Center is fully in use and receiving rave reviews. Look for a feature on the new building in the summer issue of the *Classic*, coming to your home in early July. Visit "theatre" on Northwestern's Web site to see more photos.



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Recruiting publications win top honor



A group of Northwestern recruiting publications has been recognized in the 2004 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District Six awards competition.

Northwestern's publications—the viewbook, search piece, two posters and four postcards—received the Gold Award, the district's top honor, in the student recruitment series category. Wichita

State University also earned a Gold Award. Bronze Awards were given to the University of Denver and North Dakota State College of Science.

The awards were presented at the district's January conference in Denver. District Six includes colleges, universities and independent schools in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The materials were developed by The Image Group of Holland, Mich., in conjunction with Duane Beeson, Tamara Fynaardt, Anita Cirulis and Ron De Jong of Northwestern's public relations and admissions offices. Photography was contributed by Phil Shippert of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Doug Burg and Tom Becker, Orange City.

Students perform in honor band

Three members of Northwestern's Symphonic Band were selected as members of the College Band Directors National Association North Central Division (CBDNA-NC) Intercollegiate Honor Band. Jill Bowman, a freshman oboe player, Danielle Dupré, a freshman bassoon player, and Monica Mitzel, a junior flutist, rehearsed and performed at the CBDNA-NC conference in February at the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music.

The NWC representatives were part of a 50-member ensemble with students from 18 colleges and universities.

NWC participates in short-term missions standards effort

Northwestern is among 30 schools, mission agencies and churches that have become provisional members of the new Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission.

Barb Dewald, associate dean of spiritual formation, has served on a national committee to oversee the writing of the standards. She says the process has resulted in requirements related to training, resources, peer input, data collection and accountability that will help to ensure short-term missions are done in an excellent manner for all concerned.

"By having the Standards of Excellence seal, others will know Northwestern is serious about doing short-term missions well—from preparation through follow-up," says Dewald. "Also, the seal will allow us an immediate way to better know the different mission organizations we work with as we send students on Spring Service Projects and Summer of Service trips."

For more information on this national code of ethics and the list of its seven standards, visit www.stmstandards.org.

Theatre's summer tour includes performance at Crystal Cathedral

Northwestern's theatre department will tour *September Bears*, the college's popular 9/11 drama, again this summer. The team's fifth annual tour, which will focus on the central and western United States, includes performances at the Christians in Theatre Arts national conference in Orange County, Calif., and at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., Memorial Day weekend.

The one-hour show, which enjoyed runs Off-Broadway and at St. Paul's Chapel near Ground Zero last summer, tells the true story of Manhattan schoolteacher Sue Lucarelli. Lucarelli and her Long Island church provided over 60,000 huggable teddy bears to New York children and volunteer workers after September 11.

Churches, camps, other organizations or individuals interested in arranging a performance in their community can contact Jonathan Allsup, tour manager, at 712-707-7257 or theatretour@nwciova.edu for more information.

Tuition plan receives award

Northwestern is among a group of colleges that received accolades in the Dec. 15 issue of *BusinessWeek* magazine for launching one of the "Best Products of 2003." Independent 529 Plan is the brainchild of a nationwide organization of colleges and universities that designed the financial product and worked to win approval from both Congress and the Internal Revenue Service to get it up and running.

Independent 529 Plan is a tax-advantaged plan for families to save for tuition at over 200 private colleges. "It has the advantages of state 529 plans," says Douglas M. Brown, CEO of Independent 529 Plan, "and in addition can essentially roll back the clock on the cost of future tuition."

In September, NWC helped launch the innovative product. "We see this as a vehicle to allow families to be able to better plan for funding a college education," says Doug Beukelman, Northwestern's vice president for financial affairs. "Families can decide how much they'll contribute, lock it in at today's price and know they have that waiting for them."

More information on the plan can be found at www.independent529plan.org or by calling 1-888-718-7878.

Performing groups tour

Music and theatre ensembles representing NWC performed in five states and Eastern Europe this spring.

The A cappella Choir toured in the Czech Republic, Austria and Poland over spring break. The ensemble presented five full concerts. The choir also gave a Sunday morning Mass performance at the Salzburg Cathedral and ministered through music, testimony and drama at children's homes and a refugee camp.

Northwestern's traveling theatre troupe performed *September Bears*, its popular 9/11 drama, during spring break. The play was the first show in the proscenium theatre of Northwestern's new DeWitt Theatre Arts Center. The ensemble also presented the drama at churches in South Dakota, Illinois and Michigan.

The Symphonic Band performed a variety of musical styles during a five-site tour of Minnesota and South Dakota in March.

Business department offers human resource option

Northwestern will begin offering a human resource option as part of the business administration major next fall.

The new option will allow business majors to specialize in the personnel aspect of business, including selection, hiring, training, motivation and retention of employees. The course work addresses organizational behavior and theory, labor problems, human resource management, business research and industrial psychology.

"The human resource management function is growing in importance in the marketplace. As businesses get more competitive, they realize they need to get and keep good employees," says Dr. Michael Avery, assistant professor of business and economics, who will teach some of the courses.

"Trends like globalization, e-commerce, mobility of the workforce and advanced technology just drive the need for this option," says Assistant Professor of Business Jan Carrell, who also will teach several of the courses. "Human resources is fundamental to any organization. This change strengthens our department and adds another dimension for students."

Sociology seniors' scores soar

Northwestern College seniors scored in the 95th percentile on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) sociology exam, administered to college and university sociology students across the United States and Canada last December.

"This tells us again that we can claim with authority that our students are achieving academic excellence," says Dr. Mike Yoder, sociology professor. "We're not a performance discipline, so our students get very few chances to demonstrate what they're accomplishing in public. It lends to the growing enthusiasm we're seeing for the discipline of sociology at Northwestern."

In addition to succeeding on standardized tests, Northwestern sociology majors graduate with a passion for social justice and broadened cultural perspectives due to the department's emphasis on cross-cultural experiences.

"We strive for students to understand themselves, their own society and finally the world as a whole," explains Yoder, adding that increasing numbers of sociology students are electing to study overseas.

In the last four years, NWC sociology majors have scored in the 94th, 96th and 95th percentiles on the ETS sociology exam. The test was not administered in 2002.

Faculty lead summer study abroad trips

Northwestern students will travel to Europe during three study abroad trips offered this summer.

English professor Michael Kensak will teach a course on German culture. Students with theatre professors Bob Hubbard and John Paul will study the art and theatre of Britain. And history professor Steven Isaac will lead a course on French culture.

Although NWC has sponsored its own study abroad trips since 1998, credit for an increased emphasis on such opportunities lies with the college's Lilly Grant, which is funding exploratory trips for faculty interested in teaching such a course, as well as the new position of a summer study abroad coordinator.

Northwestern hired Jill Fischer in August to work with summer study abroad trips. She expects approximately 30 students to take advantage of the short-term, intensive programs. Each

course is from three to four weeks in length and begins in May or June.

"My whole goal is to let students know about the opportunity," Fischer says. "I just want to make sure students are aware. Often the ones who have already traveled abroad are the first ones that come up and want to talk, because they're really excited about their experiences. It's those past participants who are the best ones to promote the program, because their enthusiasm really carries."

Fischer finds she often has to overcome the issue of finances when talking with students about studying abroad.

"I tell them to think of it as an investment, the same way they made the decision to attend college in the first place," she says. "Can they afford not to study abroad, especially given globalization and how we're so connected?"

Vocare activities are a compass for students seeking their place

Spring semester Vocare activities began with a campus visit from the Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, founder and leader of Overflow Ministries, an international racial reconciliation ministry. Through chapel presentations and an evening women's retreat, McNeil challenged students to become leaders concerned with uniting people of every nationality.

Students also had opportunities to explore vocation through several Vocare-funded trips and retreats. Four students visited Geneva College's graduate program in student development, and five others joined NWC counselor Valerie Stokes for a spiritual retreat at Sacred Heart Monastery Peace Center in Yankton, S.D. All NWC students were invited to participate in a themed retreat, "Journey with Jeremiah," in February.

Lisa Burch, director of student programs and community life coordinator, received Vocare's first staff vocational leave grant to spend the second half of the semester working in student development at Lithuania Christian College in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

"Vocare: Find Your Place" was funded by a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. in 2002. The project includes over 30 initiatives, all with a goal of helping students find their place in God's world. To read more about Vocare, visit lilly.nwciowa.edu.

Students serve over spring break

Around 230 Northwestern students, faculty and staff traveled across the United States and around the world for the college's annual Spring Service Projects (SSP) Feb. 28 through March 9.

Among the five international trips this year were two new service sites. Students traveled to Arima, Trinidad, to work with Trinidad and Tobago Urban Ministries. The team shared the gospel through outreach presentations at schools, children's homes, prisons and through backyard Bible clubs. Another team presented a leadership conference for students at Lithuania Christian College.

SSP teams also worked at churches in Choluteca, Honduras, and Bluefields, Nicaragua, and in two youth hostels in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

There were five new U.S. service sites. Two teams worked

in hunger and homeless ministries—one at Miracle Life Mission in Spartanburg, S.C., and another at Vieux Carre Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Students assisted with after-school tutoring and recreation at the Harambee Christian Family Center in Pasadena, Calif., and others built and repaired homes for low-income families in Neon, Ky., with HOMES Inc. A fifth team lived and worked with residents at Sonshine Ministries in Loysville, Pa.

Other U.S. service sites included youth ministry at Apache, Okla., Reformed Church and City Youth Ministries' youth center in Jonesboro, Ark.; prison ministry at Calvary Commission in Lindale, Texas; racial reconciliation ministry in Mendenhall, Miss.; and communal living and city service with the Jesus People USA in Chicago.

New major added in computer information systems

Northwestern College will offer a major in computer information systems beginning this fall.

The new major focuses on the application of computing to the business world and is designed to prepare students for careers in an information systems team or environment. Its creation, say the faculty who will be teaching the courses, results from a willingness to adapt the curriculum to fit the realities of today's job market.

"Almost every company, large or small, needs to have someone to manage their databases, run their network or maintain their Web site," says Mike Wallinga, a member of the computer science department faculty who led the development of the new major. "There will always be a need for people with these skills, so jobs will always be available."

Graduates with a degree in computer information systems will be prepared to play a key role in their company or organization.

"They'll be someone with a good business background but also a good computing background," says Mark Vellinga, chair of Northwestern's computer science department, "someone able to serve as the middle person and work with both the programming group and management."

The new major replaces an information systems option that was part of the college's business administration major. It shares a common foundation of courses with the computer science major but involved the creation of two new courses as well: Principles of Computer Information Systems and Electronic Commerce. The latter course combines computer programming and development with business content.

"Before, the computer science major had to be all things to all people," says Wallinga. "Now it can be a little more theoretical—a little more computational—and the computer information systems major can prepare students who see themselves in a business setting."



A new computer information systems major will prepare students to work as information technology professionals in any business setting.



This photo capturing the lunch-time interacting of Dr. Todd Tracy and students garnered honorable mention in a national contest.

NWC photographs receive recognition

Two photographs submitted by the NWC public relations office received honorable mention recognition in the 2003 "Focus" photo competition sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCCU).

An image taken by Orange City photographer Tom Becker received honorable mention in the "Create: Images of Creativity" category. The photo, printed in the fall *Classic*, shows sophomore Joel Scholten painting in a class in the new Korver Visual Arts Center.

Doug Burg of Orange City received honorable mention recognition for his photo of Dr. Todd Tracy, assistant professor of biology, eating lunch in the cafeteria with students. The photograph was selected for honors in the "Live: Images of Community" category.

Northwestern's photos were among 17 award-winning shots selected from over 450 entries. Only three other institutions had more than one photo chosen for recognition. The honored photos were selected by CCCC staff members based on the images' quality and relevance to Christian higher education.

The Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, based in Washington, D.C., is an international higher education association of intentionally Christian institutions with 105 members. Northwestern has been a member of the CCCC since 1978.

Faculty/staff news

Art department faculty members **Karen Acker, John Kaericher** and **Rein Vanderhill** had their original work featured in an exhibition at Northwestern's Te Paske Gallery in February and March.

Dr. Douglas Firth Anderson, history, has been appointed to the State Nomination Review Committee for the National Register of Historic Places.



Dr. Keith Anderson

Dr. Keith Anderson, dean of spiritual formation and vocation, received the Dana Walling Award for Excellence in Campus Ministry at the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCCU) Campus Ministers Conference in Costa Mesa, Calif., in February. The award, given for the first time, is intended to challenge emerging campus ministers by honoring individuals who have served as role models in the mold of the late Dana Walling, former campus pastor at Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego. Anderson, a CCCU senior fellow for campus ministry who joined Northwestern's administrative team in 2002, has 20 years of experience as a campus minister and professor at Christian colleges. He is the author of five books published by InterVarsity Press, including *Spiritual Mentoring: A Guide for Those Giving and Receiving Direction* and *What They Don't Always Teach You at a Christian College*.

Dr. Mike Avery, business, wrote an article on container security that was published in the January edition of *The Voyager*, a quarterly professional online journal on transportation logistics.



Greg Scheer

Greg Scheer, director of music ministries, presented three sessions at the Calvin Symposium on Worship and the Arts in January in Grand Rapids, Mich. He presented "Planning Worship: Joining Structure and

Style," "Planning Worship: Practical Techniques" and "Congregational Songwriting Workshop."

Dr. Sara Tolsma, biology, organized and moderated an open forum on the creation and use of human embryonic stem cells, sponsored by the Reformed Church in America's Commission on Christian Action, on campus in February. Among the panelists were **Dr. Byron Noordewier**, biology; **Dr. Syl Scorza**, professor emeritus of religion; **Dr. Randy Jensen**, philosophy; and the **Rev. Harlan VanOort**, chaplain.

Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff, political science, has had an essay, "Phyllis Schlafly and the Midwestern Basis of Family Values," published in the *Encyclopedia of the Midwest*. The volume was a project of the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities at The Ohio State University.

Cornie Wassink, director of planned giving, received the 2004 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District Six Distinguished Service Award at the district's January conference in Denver. The award honors persons with exemplary professional service to CASE and District Six, which includes colleges, universities and independent schools in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. A member of the district's executive board from 1987 to 1995, Wassink served as the district chair in 1993-94, vice chair in 1992 and treasurer in 1988-89. He was a member of the CASE National District Services Committee in 1993-94. A frequent speaker and moderator at district conferences, Wassink has been on the conference committee for seven years, was program chair in 1991 and served as senior professionals track chair this year.

Dr. Marc Wooldridge, music, presented his touring recital, "Journeys: Multimedia Percussion," at Northwestern in January. He also gave recent solo performances at Taylor University, Gustavus Adolphus College, South Dakota State University, San Diego University, and schools in Iowa and Michigan.

Students study off campus

Fifty-four NWC students are furthering their education through off-campus studies and internships this semester.

Five students are studying in Costa Rica. Others are studying in Austria, Australia, Bolivia, England, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Spain and Wales.

Thirteen students are participating in the Chicago

Semester, taking classes and interning. Two are enrolled in the Los Angeles Film Studies Program, and one is participating in the American Studies Program in Washington, D.C.

Other interns are gaining practical experience in their field of study through their work at sites such as Citibank, Sioux Falls; Pella Corporation, Sioux Center; the Republican Party of San Diego County, Calif.; and the Sioux Valley Wellness Center, Sioux Falls.

Guidebook recommends NWC programs

Eleven Northwestern academic departments are listed in the 2004 edition of *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*, a national guidebook that recommends specific college academic departments to prospective students. The selected programs are biology, chemistry, education, history, music, physics, psychology, religion, theatre, athletic training and ecological science.

The biology department was one of 38 chosen from moderate-sized selective colleges; the chemistry department was among only 27 recommended from

Northwestern's category. The education department was one of 84 chosen from schools like NWC. The history department was among only eight recommended from colleges Northwestern's size. There were 45 other moderate-sized selective colleges recommended in music, eight others in physics, 52 others in psychology, six others in religion and 21 others in theatre.

Two of Northwestern's programs were listed in a special category, miscellaneous majors: athletic training, in which NWC was one of 69 colleges and universi-



The ecological science major is among 11 Northwestern programs listed in Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges.

ties of all sizes and selectiveness recommended, and ecological science, of which Northwestern was among 123 schools of all sizes recommended.

Written by Frederick Rugg, a Brown University graduate who served 20 years as a secondary school college counselor and now gives college seminars around the country, the book includes

programs at 1,000 four-year colleges that he has identified as providing a high-quality education. Rugg's publication relies heavily on random polls of students at those colleges, asking them what departments at their school they would recommend most to high school seniors. Input also is received from high school counselors, college personnel and unsolicited tips.

Auction donations are second highest



More than 600 people attended the '50s-themed Gala Auction.

The 21st annual Northwestern College Gala Auction raised over \$40,000 on Feb. 21. The total is the second highest amount of auction funds raised in school history.

Proceeds will help fund \$1,000 Alumni Scholarships for 25 to 30 students next year, the \$1,500 Northwestern College Teaching Excellence Award, a fall workshop for faculty, and student life programs.

More than 600 people attended the '50s-themed event. Bids were submitted on over 400 items.

"The attendance was great, and the number of online bids is increasing," says Karen Woudstra, director of alumni and parent relations. "We also accepted credit cards this year, and over a third of the money raised came in that way.

"People told me it was a blast," Woudstra says. "They loved the '50s music and ice cream sundaes. And seeing alum George Bonnema [Luverne, Minn.] as Elvis was a hoot.

"This event keeps getting better with more and more to bid on, like great travel packages, gift certificates and one-of-a-kind handiwork," says Woudstra. "But the biggest reason it succeeds are the donors and bidders—Northwestern's alumni, friends and area business supporters are very generous."

Recipe for Community



by Emily Hennager '06



With Aundrea Rott looking over her shoulder, Rachel Menke prepares to bake another batch of cookies.

Not many college students buy sugar and flour in 25-pound bags, but junior Rachel Menke does. After all, when she's making 36 batches of cookies every Thursday afternoon, those smaller bags just get used up too fast.

The event, affectionately referred to as Cookie Day, draws students from every part of campus with the promise of fresh-baked goods. But, Menke admits, the cookies are just a ploy to get people together.

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"I get quality time to catch up with friends. Plus, I know people enjoy it and that encourages me to keep it up."
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"It's not just to feed the masses—that's what the caf (cafeteria) is for. The point is to build community," says Menke, a Christian education major from Columbus, Neb.

With this goal in mind, Menke pulls out the baking supplies every Thursday afternoon from four until midnight. All evening, students come and go—some staying for hours, others only minutes. All, however, enjoy a cookie, a lot of laughter and some friendly conversation. The topics change quickly, though. In a period of 15 minutes, discussion ranges from the meaning of biblical passages to predictions for next year's Homecoming court to weightlifting.

"I don't need to lift weights," Menke claims. "My right arm is stronger than my left because it's my stirring arm." The group bursts out

laughing.

"You laugh, but I've helped her stir a few batches," junior Kara Wismer says. "It's hard work."

Menke puts more effort into Cookie Day than just stirring up ingredients. Every Tuesday, she sends out an e-mail to over 130 students announcing what kind of cookie is on the menu that week and reminding them all to stop by. She also made laminated signs to advertise Cookie Day around campus.

Once the word is out, there's still the task of getting all the supplies, which cost about \$40 per week, and dealing with classes. "I do all of my homework for Friday on Wednesday night. It just takes a lot of planning ahead," she says.

To Menke, the effort is well worth it. "I get quality time to catch up with friends. Plus, I know people enjoy it and that encourages me to keep it up. A lot of RAs bring their whole wings, so it's a good way to meet the freshmen."

The vision for Cookie Day came last summer as Menke anticipated living in a campus apartment instead of the dorms. Not willing to

give up the social activity of dorm life, she brainstormed ways to get people to visit her apartment.

"I was sitting at home, missing all my friends from school, and then I helped my mom bake cookies," Menke says. "I realized that since everyone loves cookies, I'd bribe them to come over."

The idea quickly grew to include not only her friends, but the entire campus. "I figured I could meet a lot of new people," she says.

The first Cookie Day was held in the fall as soon as classes started and, except for breaks, Menke hasn't missed a week. Average attendance is 180 students per week; the record is 223.

Sometimes the crowds barely fit in her apartment, but Menke likes it that way.

"The thing you have to know about Rachel," says junior Aaron Willems, "is the more people that are around, the more energy she has."

Menke agrees. "It's true. The night we had 200 people here, I was giddy," she says.

However, her passion for helping people goes beyond Cookie Day.

"I want to help make Northwestern a better place. That sounds cheesy, but it's true. That's why I'm involved with things like freshman orientation and student government," she says.

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"The thing you have to know about Rachel is the more people that are around, the more energy she has."
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programs. In past years, she's spent spring break serving at inner-city missions in Arkansas and Washington, D.C.

These experiences have shown her that college learning isn't just about taking classes. "I'm a firm believer that 40 years from now when you look back at college, you're not going to remember your classes, but you will remember the people," says Menke. "That's why community is important. That's going to leave the lasting impact."

This year Menke is serving in several leadership positions across campus, including vice president of the Student Government Association and an apartment manager. In March, she led a Spring Service Project trip to California to work with inner-city youth and run after-school tutoring



Tosha Top arrives at Rachel Menke's Courtyard Village apartment for Cookie Day as Jesse Aguilera and Dan DeWitt enjoy conversation.



Third Annual Red Raider Classic

Friday, June 4
Landsmeer Golf Club, Orange City
Registration at noon

Enjoy this four-person scramble for alumni and friends of the Northwestern football program.

For more information, contact Kyle Achterhoff:
712-707-7282 or achterhk@nwciowa.edu.

Here to Help

by Emily Hennager '06

With assignments like psychology research papers, Western Civilization exams and presentations in Spanish, it's no surprise that college course work can be intimidating. Patti Thayer, however, helps students rise above that challenge.

"I'm here to serve students by anticipating their needs and being available to provide assistance," she says.

As Northwestern's director of academic support services, Thayer oversees 100 student tutors, provides accommodations for students with learning disabilities, coordinates the academic alert program, and works individually with students who want to develop more efficient learning strategies.

"There's nothing more exciting than to be involved with students who are learning," she says, "to see things turn around for students who are struggling academically, for one reason or another. To help them set goals and see them meet and exceed those goals—to have them come in and say they really like their classes this semester."

Recognizing that students are in different stages of learning, Thayer makes it a point to view each one as

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"One semester I tried to keep a log of how many students I met with, but I just couldn't do it. There are such a variety of contacts. Students stop by with or without an appointment. I don't think about the numbers. If someone needs me, I'm here."

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 an individual. "Freshmen, nontraditional students, international students—each one is at a different place. No matter how prepared they are academically, socially, spiritually or emotionally, we have a network of support to walk beside them," she says.

Sometimes that support involves acquainting students with other areas of the campus. "Students will come to me with questions about a major. I might not know that information, but I can tell them about the Career Development Center and connect them with someone who can help," Thayer says.

Thayer's calendar illustrates just how much time is devoted to "walking beside" students. Each day is packed with neatly written appoint-

ments, many of which are highlighted in yellow.

"That means I'm meeting with a student," she explains. "One semester I tried to keep a log of how many students I met with, but I just couldn't do it. There are such a variety of contacts. Students stop by with or without an appointment. I don't think about the numbers. If someone needs me, I'm here."

Senior Maggie Biesanz, a Peale Scholar who has worked as a writing tutor for three years, has seen Thayer's concern for students. "Her heart is for people. She's pas-

sionate about strengthening others through relationships. If ever I drop in, she stops what she's doing and focuses on my needs," Biesanz says. "She's completely encouraging."

That encouraging and positive spirit is evident in Thayer's choice of words. A bad test or trying class experience is merely a "bump" in the semester. Studying, attending class and completing assignments is what she calls the "business of being a student." It's a business that might be an adjustment for some, Thayer realizes.

"It's expected that stu-



Patti Thayer, Northwestern's Teacher of the Year in 1984, seeks to help students make the transition to college learning and living through her role as director of the Academic Support Center.

dents enhance their learning though partnerships and resources," she says.

"Academic support is an integral part of the academic program, and we communicate with faculty on a regular basis."

Thayer is well acquainted with the faculty's perspective. Before starting at NWC, she spent many years teaching middle school and high school English.

"From those experiences, I learned to appreciate that not all students learn the same way, as well as the impact that life experiences have on learning," she says. "Now I work with different students in a different educational setting, but it's those practical experiences that make you wise. Hardly anything surprises me anymore."

One thing that has surprised her is the path her career has taken. "I never dreamed I'd be doing this job," Thayer says.

Originally coming to Northwestern as a writing instructor before moving into her present position, Thayer has overseen many changes in academic support services. The tutoring program has grown from five writing tutors to 100 tutors from all disciplines, and science, math and Spanish tutoring centers have been started in response to student need.

Now in her 21st year at Northwestern, Thayer conducts annual evaluations of the academic support

Planned giving notes



Cornie Wassink '73
Director of
Planned Giving

If Only We Had Known

Every year, Northwestern College receives surprise bequests from the estates of people we never had the chance to thank. Of course, we appreciate these gifts immensely. They reveal gracious and generous people. And the gifts will certainly help us accomplish our mission.

But we wish we had the opportunity to express our gratitude to these givers for such kindness—to let them know how much their gifts mean. If only we had known, we could have said thank you.

That's why we encourage our friends to let us know when they include Northwestern College in their estate plans. Not only can we express our appreciation, but we can make sure they are kept up-to-date with all the developments here at NWC.

The Northwestern College Heritage Society was established to recognize those who include Northwestern in their estate plans. Members receive an attractive laser-engraved walnut plaque, are invited to attend our annual Heritage Day Luncheon in May, and are included on all membership listings.

Have you named Northwestern College in your estate plans? If so, please use the form below to let us know. If not, may we send you a free but valuable brochure on estate planning? It is worth reading, whether or not you choose to make a future gift to Northwestern.

If you would like to talk with someone personally about your giving plans, contact me at 712-707-7109 or cwassink@nwciova.edu. There is never any obligation.

(Please complete and return this reply form.)

- ☐ Please send me free literature about making a will.
☐ Please contact me to arrange a personal visit or other assistance.
☐ I have already provided a bequest for Northwestern College in my will.
☐ Please send me information about the Northwestern College Heritage Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail this form to: Cornie Wassink
 Director of Planned Giving
 Northwestern College
 101 7th St. SW
 Orange City, IA 51041

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The Business of Leadership

Professor Michael Avery helps students understand what makes an entrepreneur



A former executive and Naval officer, Dr. Michael Avery teaches management, marketing, business ethics and entrepreneurship courses at Northwestern.

Michael Avery doesn't just teach about entrepreneurs. He is one.

Since his arrival on campus nearly four years ago, the Northwestern business professor has developed a course—Christian Entrepreneurial Leadership Seminar—that focuses on the leadership qualities and attributes of entrepreneurs.

"Entrepreneurs are thought of as being mostly in business," says Avery, who

has a doctorate in business administration, "but there are

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"Entrepreneurship can be taught, and experience is the best teacher."
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entrepreneurs in education, there are entrepreneurs in the church, there are entrepre-

neurs in all disciplines. Entrepreneurial thought is visionary, out-of-the-box thinking."

One could add there are even entrepreneurs in the military. During Avery's 26-year career in the Navy, he built a school for anti-submarine warfare—a process that saw him in charge of both the school's construction and staffing—and designed base security systems. He also established small businesses

of his own, such as one installing irrigation systems while he was stationed in California.

After retiring from the service, Avery started a landscape maintenance company, founded a nonprofit organization promoting trade partnerships between Central Florida and Latin America, and served as an international consultant with expertise in business development, transportation logistics and security. He also began work on his doctorate and served as an adjunct and visiting professor for a variety of colleges and universities in the South.

During Avery's first year at Northwestern in 2000-01, he established a Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team to give students opportunities for visionary, out-of-the-box thinking.

"It can be taught," he says of entrepreneurship, "and experience is the best teacher. That's one of the reasons we have Students in Free Enterprise on campus. In the Christian Entrepreneurial Leadership Seminar, we use case studies of how Christian entrepreneurs have built and led their organizations to prosper. If we can establish what the qualities of an entrepreneur are and demonstrate how those qualities have been optimized, we can teach students about entrepreneurship. Then they need to practice."

That's where SIFE comes in. The organization isn't a business club; its members

include students majoring in everything from art to the natural sciences to accounting to religion. Rather, it's an opportunity for collegians to make a difference in their communities by learning, practicing and teaching such concepts as market economics, entrepreneurship, personal and financial success, and business ethics. Students develop community outreach projects and then present those projects in competitions judged by corporate CEOs.

Northwestern's SIFE team won regional awards and advanced to the national competition each of its first three years of existence. It also was a national winner in a special category of the competition in 2001 and finished among the top 12 teams nationally in 2002.

Colin Doughan '02 was a junior and the student coordinator of SIFE when Avery started the organization at Northwestern. He remembers how Avery's approach as SIFE's adviser mirrored the professor's teaching style. Avery offered ideas, encouragement and guidance but let students make the decisions and form the organization the way they wanted it to work.

"He's very laidback, which is an interesting thing," Doughan says, "because he demands a lot out of students. But much like in SIFE, he's not willing to hold their hands and spoon-feed them. Professor Avery will say, 'Here is the end product; here's what I'm looking for. How you go about it, you tell me.'"

But while Avery demonstrates his trust in students, he doesn't leave them leaderless.

"Current Northwestern SIFE teams are focusing on how they can have the biggest impact on their community, not necessarily how they can win," Doughan says, "which means Professor Avery is doing a good job of helping them focus on long-term success rather than short-term accomplishments."

Among the SIFE achievements at Northwestern are Cookiebusiness, an interactive learning tool used by area schools and other SIFE teams in their education outreach, and high school workshops in business ethics and personal finance that have been produced in video form for future distribution. Northwestern's SIFE team also operates a consulting service that serves Chambers of Commerce and non-profit entities and is now working on two projects in the profit sector.

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"There are many more entrepreneurs inside organizations than there are who start new enterprises, and it's that kind of visionary leadership that makes an organization grow and prosper."
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"Over the long run," Doughan says, "they're going to have tremendous success, but in the short-term, they may not make it to nationals."

Even if they don't, there are still major advantages to participating in SIFE, from getting practical experience in project development to improving presentation skills to being hired at a national exposition.

Doughan was offered a sales position in Korea and Japan with Wal-Mart but turned it down for a management track position with Lockheed Martin in Omaha. He also has launched 88 improv, a family- and business-friendly comedy group, with five other Northwestern alumni.

"SIFE definitely prepared me for the opportunities I've had with Lockheed," he says. "The projects in SIFE are too large for any one person to be able to have all the expertise and knowledge, so they require you to be able to learn quickly."

The chief executive officers judging SIFE bring their recruiting departments to both the regional and national competitions. They recognize they're seeing the nation's best and brightest college students, and they want the first chance to hire people who can make a difference in their organizations.

They recognize, as Avery puts it, that "there are many more entrepreneurs inside organizations than there are who start new enterprises, and it's that kind of visionary leadership that makes an organization grow and prosper."

With Avery as part of its faculty, Northwestern's business department is sure to do the same.

Here to Help continued from page 13

program to better understand what students' needs are.

"We're evaluated by faculty and students to find out if we're fulfilling our mission. Are we living up to who we say we are?" she asks. "Usually we do a pretty good job, but there's always room for improvement."

Though she no longer works in a traditional classroom, Thayer stays connected to the public school system by serving as a board member for the MOC-Floyd Valley School District. Now in her ninth year on the board, Thayer says it is a good complement to her work at Northwestern.

"It keeps me tuned in to the broader picture of education and makes me more aware of what's going on in students' lives before they get here," she says.

The work often reminds her how different college is from high school. "College is a transition in learning and in living," Thayer says. "Northwestern takes that seriously. We never say students are expected to make it alone."

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“Designing T-shirts was just something I did for fun, but then it grew on me really bad, so I kept going with it.”
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Lori and Dan Van Beek's company, T-Graphics West, supplies T-shirts and posters to over 2,000 schools across the country.



This Designer Rules the Schools

by Sherrie Barber Willson '98

If you see a student wearing a school T-shirt, chances are it's one of Dan Van Beek's designs.

Since graduating from Northwestern in 1992, he and his wife, Lori (Burris '92), have built a successful screen graphics business, T-Graphics West. The company, based in Chino, Calif., supplies T-shirts and posters to over 2,000 senior high and middle schools across the country and does all of the clothing for Jostens' Renaissance academics program.

Oddly enough, it was basketball, not art, that inspired Dan to his life's calling—specifically, the 1992 NAIA Div. II men's basketball national tournament. Northwestern's team made it to the championship game (ultimately finishing as runner-up), and Dan designed a T-shirt for them. Word spread to the rest of the campus, and

within 48 hours, he was sold out.

“Designing T-shirts was just something I did for fun, but then it grew on me really bad, so I kept going with it,” Dan says.

Scary move

After graduating with a degree in art, Dan hired on at a design firm in Boulder, Colo., where he was able to continue designing T-shirts while learning everything he could about other aspects of the design business. That inquisitiveness came in handy when, after a year, he and his wife decided to move to Dan's home state of California and start their own screen graphic design business.

The relocation made sense: The market for screen printers in Boulder was tapped out, and California has some of the largest school districts in the country—perfect for a company wanting to venture into the education market.

But that didn't make it easy. Dan and Lori spent a year pounding the pavement, trying to woo customers, and 10 years building a solid client base.



Van Beek turned surfboards into books and diplomas in this design, inspired by the 1960s movie The Endless Summer.



Members of Northwestern's Red Raider Student Club wear T-shirts with this design to NWC games.

"It was scary," Dan says of the early years of his business. "I was so fresh out of school, and I definitely didn't have enough experience. I had just one year of working outside of school. There were so many times in the beginning when we were like, 'This is a bad idea. Why did we ever start down this road?' But each time, we overcame that and stuck with it."

What kept him going was the work itself. "When a design came back printed and we could actually see it, that always brought me back," Dan says. "And when customers opened a box of shirts and just lit up at how they looked—that's a great feeling."

Another big help was the balance provided by his wife's skills. Lori has a double degree in business and math, and T-Graphics West has been a joint venture between them from the beginning. As Dan says, "She's the one who makes sure we're making money."

Guerilla marketing

Dan credits Northwestern for getting Lori and him through those first few years of starting their own business. He said his ability to come up with designs and then make them work flows out of his training as an art student, when he was encouraged to let himself go creatively.

And Northwestern taught him to be just as creative in marketing the company. A typical technique is to find the most influential students on a high school

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"I love my job, and I think that shows in my dealings with customers."
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campus (with the help of the activities director), bring them into the office and ask them which designs they like.

"We give them the T-shirts they like, they wear them and then boom! Suddenly the whole school wants it," Dan says. "That's very different from just putting an ad in the newspaper. That's the kind of guerrilla marketing Northwestern taught me, and it's really been effective."

On the other hand, Dan has also developed some uniquely Californian ways of doing business, including playing paintball every week

Some designs you might have seen

Every once in awhile, a design becomes a "monster," as Dan calls it: It hits a chord and ends up in high demand. A couple of T-Graphics West monster designs from the last few years that you may have seen:

- A T-shirt that says "No grades, no glory" with an American flag background
- A poster of two kids studying that says, "For the first 22 years of your life, you have only 1 job: to educate yourself."



at the largest paintball field in the country.

"It's my golf," he says of his passion for the sport. "And a lot of CEOs and business people play, so it's like golf in the sense that a lot of

think that shows in my dealings with customers," Dan says. "We have really good customer loyalty. Every once in awhile, someone doesn't call us back the next year, and then the year after that



Students and educators attending the 2003 Jostens Renaissance National Conference in Las Vegas received this T-shirt, designed by Van Beek.

business deals out here are made while playing paintball."

Ten years after it started, T-Graphics West employs five people in addition to Dan and Lori. Dan has been able to devote himself exclusively to design and leave the business part to his wife and other employees, which makes him very happy.

"I love my job, and I

they call us with their horror story about working with another company. I'm always happy to hear from them, and always happy to do designs for them."

And the best part of his job? Since they supply the education market, which is closed in the summer, Dan and Lori still have summers off to spend with their sons, Griffin (5) and Ethan (2).

A Japanese Lantern

by Tamara Fynaardt

She walks down the sidewalk, past the chapel to Van Peurse Hall. Her shoulders are hunched, her hood up. She looks cold, a little homesick. Determined.

At 57, Junko Nagao might be the only student at Northwestern College with graying hair. The only one who wears bifocals. The only one who's already had a full career as a wife and mother of four. But at least she's not the only one from Japan. And she aims to keep it that way.

Last time she was. Back in the late '60s, Nagao was headed to a California college when her parents refused their permission. The Vietnam conflict was in progress, and her parents felt it was unsafe. So her mother asked the advice of a friend: Ruby Korver, whose husband, Ron, was a missionary with Orange City roots. "Ruby told my mother Northwestern College is good," remembers Nagao.

So she enrolled, one of only a handful of minorities on campus—and the only one from Japan. She couldn't understand the language well enough to take notes, so she recorded classes, listening to taped lectures again and again to fill her notebook.



Barb (Jacobs '70) Lubbers, a longtime friend of Nagao, says Junko's unassuming, humble demeanor "hides a multitude of capabilities." When she's not studying, Nagao has enjoyed reconnecting with old friends like (left to right) Sandi (Mouw '71) Carlson, Char (Van Zanten '72) Van Roekel and Lubbers.

That summer, she lived with her adviser, Dr. Lyle Vander Werff, babysitting his kids and becoming one of their family. "I thought Orange City was a good place to live," says Nagao, "because almost all the people were Christians. They go to church on Sunday mornings; it's natural to pray. I thought it was a very, very

good place to live as a Christian."

It's where, Nagao says, she learned to live as a Christian. Although Nagao attended a Christian school in Japan, most of the students and teachers were not Christians. Nagao's mother, grandmother and several other family members are Christians, but over 99 per-

cent of Japanese people are not believers.

"The two years I spent at Northwestern is the foundation of my life today," Nagao says. "While I was here, many people showed me Christian love and how Christians live, especially my roommate, Char [(Van Zanten '72) Van Roekel]. It is not easy for Christians to live

in Japan, where the majority of people are non-Christian," she explains.

Nagao left Northwestern in 1970, and during the years she was learning to be a wife and mother, Vander Werff was laying the foundation for the college's international student program. Nagao was his Japanese connection.

"Whenever he came to visit us in Japan, we had a reunion," Nagao remembers. "People around the Tokyo area who had been to Northwestern joined us and welcomed him."

Vander Werff retired in 1998, so Nagao has become Northwestern's Japanese alumni coordinator. Like her mentor, she wants to keep Japanese alumni connected to one another and the college. She hopes to establish an NWC Association in Japan to host events like the Gala Auction so Japanese alumni and supporters can contribute to the college, too.

She also is a recruitment contact for Japanese students interested in attending NWC. This year there are 10 other students from Japan; Nagao had a hand in recruiting at least four of them.

And she wants to invite more Northwestern graduates to Japan to teach English—and share the gospel. "I am thinking about Christian mission in Japan," she said. "Northwestern students could come to Japan as English teachers in high schools. They could share their faith among Japanese



Junko credits her former roommate, Char Van Roekel, with teaching her to live as a Christian during their time at Northwestern.

students and encourage them to come to Northwestern, too."

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"The two years I spent at Northwestern is the foundation of my life today. It is not easy for Christians to live in Japan, where the majority of people are non-Christian."
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Nagao's new role prompted her return to Northwestern to pursue a

one-year certificate in English as a second language (ESL).

"I have been dreaming to improve my English," she said. "It is not easy for American Christians to live in Japan. I would like to help these graduates. And I want to send more Japanese students to Northwestern. But my English was not good enough."

When she told her husband, Yasushi, about her plans in December 2002, he said, "OK. Go ahead."

"I got his permission, so I started preparing to come back," relates Nagao. In June she reminded her husband of her upcoming trip. "I told him, 'I'm ready. I got an air ticket. I got a student visa.'

And he said, 'What?!'" she remembers, laughing. "I told him when all my children were home for supper. They all supported me and said, 'That's good.'"

Also, it was now or never, Nagao felt, because she's losing her eyesight. "I can hardly see people's faces, and it's hard to read and write now," she explains.

She left behind two adult children still living at home and a husband who's just now learning to cook. "This was the right decision," she says. "But very, very hard. I am missing my family a lot every day."

Despite her waning eyesight and the fact that she hadn't used English in over 30 years, classes aren't as hard as last time because she's in the ESL program. "It's kind of easy," she says—then laughs and corrects herself: "Not easy—easier. It's still harder than I expected."

Not much has changed since the last time she lived on campus, Nagao claims. "There are new buildings, bigger trees. Then I see the students, and they are the same as 33 years ago. The surprising thing is that Northwestern still feels like home.

"I really think this is my calling for the rest of my life," Nagao says. "I would like to keep developing what Lyle [Vander Werff] has left for us. Because of my eyesight, I have to start now before the darkness comes. We should not put off the light that Lyle has put on."

Loving the Church

by Amy Scheer

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“People say churches like Faith are all about the numbers, and we say, ‘You are exactly right. Each number is a soul. They matter to us.’”
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The Rev. Bob Bouwer '84 remembers a prayer he said when he was eight years old. It was a sincere request—that little Bobby would be used by God—and it had one stipulation: “but not as a pastor.”

The young Bouwer knew the difficulties of shepherding a church. Ministry

was especially tough in the days that his father was pastoring churches in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, Bouwer says. There were joys, to be sure, but to little Bobby, church didn't seem too exciting or very relevant to real life. Though elderly ladies would pat him on the head and tell him he was just

like his dad, the last thing he wanted was Dad's job.

“I loved God, but I didn't really care for his church,” Bouwer admits of those early years.

It took a moment in front of Northwestern's Zwemer Hall in 1981 for Bouwer to finally embrace his vocation. College

Chaplain Jerry Sittser, who had mentored Bouwer and watched him do passionate, joyful ministry, posed a challenge: “When are you going to stop running from your calling?”

Bouwer stopped resisting the pull to be a pastor and instead ran toward what God was teaching him



Bob Bouwer serves as senior pastor at Faith Church, which moved from South Holland, Ill., to Dyer, Ind., and completed the first phase of its new facility last July.

through Sittser and classes such as “Calvin’s Institutes.” After graduating from Northwestern with a major in religion, he went on to Western Seminary in Holland, Mich., to pursue a Master of Divinity degree.

“Northwestern helped me create a worldview of life change,” says Bouwer, and shortly after graduation, he was able to put this theology into practice—during a one-year

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“I loved God, but I didn’t really care for his church.”
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internship at First Reformed Church in Fort Lee, N.J., just one mile from the Bronx.

“I saw relevancy—conversions and transformations of lives in the local church,” Bouwer says of the vibrant inner-city ministry, and he

signed on for two more years as their associate pastor, finishing his seminary degree requirements off campus.

In 1990, Faith Church (RCA) in South Holland, Ill., called Bouwer to be their pastor. Bouwer was hesitant, as Faith strongly resembled his childhood church. After prayerful consideration, he accepted the position and spent the first several years settling in. In 1993, Bouwer and a retired woman from their congregation of 300 went knocking on doors to learn what suburbanites think of God and the church.

Most of those surveyed believed in God—some even in Jesus—but few attended church. Why? It was boring. It was legalistic and judgmental. “They weren’t totally lost—just disconnected,” says Bouwer. The church cast a vision to reconnect these people to the church and to God.

Now, over a decade later, Faith Church and its facilities occupy a new 25-acre campus in Dyer, Ind. (a south Chicago suburb). The congregation, having grown to 1,000 people in July of 2003, is now over 2,000 in size. There are services Wednesday night, Saturday night, and three on Sunday morning. There are 11 full-time staff members, including three ordained ministers and two music ministers, plus many part-timers. Faith Church, once a small, dormant body of believers, is now a megachurch.

“People say churches like Faith are all about the numbers, and we say, ‘You are exactly right,’” says Bouwer. “Each

number is a soul. They matter to us.”

Services are punctuated with contemporary pop music, drama, video and PowerPoint technology, making them “seeker-friendly” (comfortable to those unfamiliar with church practices) while remaining Reformed in theology. A recent sermon series named “Extreme Makeover,” for example, borrowed its title from a popular television program and used

clips from Oprah to illustrate how God wants to change lives (a family from Faith happened to have their housefront redesigned by Oprah’s crew).

Bouwer won’t take credit for his church’s phenomenal growth. “What we do is invite God to do the work. Yes, we spend a tremendous amount of hours making services relevant, but it is definitely done through the power of God’s Spirit.” He’s had people put notes on his car or stop him on the street to say, “You have no idea how much Faith

Church has meant to my life,” and go on to tell of God’s grace in a failing marriage restored or of children finding renewed enthusiasm in going to church with their parents.

But what kid wouldn’t want to go to a church with climbing walls, fish tanks and two-story sand castles? Do churches need such spectacles to attract newcomers?

Bouwer says that Faith Church’s state-of-the-art facility and use of technology and culture function in the same way that Jesus’ miracles did: They draw people in, opening them to the opportunity to hear the gospel. Bouwer calls the initial attraction a “wow moment,” comparing it to the eye-catching beauty of a bride at a wedding: “The church is God’s bride. We need churches in America where people say ‘Wow.’”

This May, Faith Church will host “The U-Turn Church,” a conference they’ve designed to help churches seeking guidance for revitalization. Attendees will hear of Bouwer’s longtime love for the Lord, and of a once bored little boy’s newfound love for the church.



Climbing walls, fish tanks and two-story sand castles all are part of Faith Church’s “Treasureland” children’s area.

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“The church is God’s bride. We need churches in America where people say ‘Wow.’”
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Wintersports



The Raiders' leading scorer, Cody Kuipers, heads to the basket for two in a victory over Midland Lutheran. Kuipers averaged 15.8 points per game.

Men's Basketball

- Lost a 103-100 overtime game to Huntington College in the first round of the NAIA Div. II national tournament.
- Ranked 12th nationally at the end of the regular season, the Raiders finished with a 22-9 record.
- Tied for first in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) with a 14-4 mark.
- Senior Marcus Leloux and junior Corey Winterfeld earned GPAC player of the week honors and were named to the all-conference first team.
- Junior Cody Kuipers earned second team all-conference honors.

Women's Basketball

- Finished 18-11, ranked 22nd nationally.
- Placed fifth in the GPAC

with a 12-6 record.

- Senior Jaime Woudstra earned NAIA national player of the week honors on Feb. 16 after averaging more than 23 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists in two games. She earned GPAC first team all-conference honors, ranking first nationally in rebounds, 12.0 per game; tied for first in double doubles, 24; tied for second in three-point field goal percentage, 46.9; third in scoring, 23.7 per game; and sixth in blocks, 3.28 per game.
- Junior guard Lindsay Kropf was named to the all-conference second team.

Wrestling

- The Raiders won the Team Sportsmanship Award at the national tournament in Great Falls, Mont., Feb. 27-28. Competing at nationals were Boomer Mears, 133;

Two inducted into Hall of Fame



Scott Guthmiller

Scott Guthmiller '84 and Tish (Bergeson '98) Wedgbury are the newest members of Northwestern's Athletic Hall of Fame. Inducted on Jan. 23, they bring the number of Hall of Famers to 77.

Guthmiller earned first-team NAIA All-America and Scholar-Athlete honors as a tight end in 1983 when the Raiders won the national football championship. He compiled 949 yards in catches that season—fourth best in school history, averaging 14.6 yards per reception and scoring nine touchdowns. His career total of 1,686 receiving yards places him seventh in Northwestern's record books, while he is tied for eighth on the Raiders' list of career touchdowns scored by receptions with 17. Guthmiller is marketing director for UI HealthWorks, the occupational health program at the University of Iowa.

Wedgbury transferred to NWC after one year at Mt. Mercy College and made an immediate impact on the volleyball and softball teams. On the court, the left-side hitter was a first-team all-conference and all-region selection for national-qualifying teams in 1994, '95 and '96. Named to the All-America second team in 1995 and '96, she is fourth on the Raiders' career kill list with 1,274. In softball, the left-fielder earned all-conference honors for teams that were regional runners-up in 1995 and '96 and advanced to nationals in '97. Her career batting average of .311 is sixth best in school history. Wedgbury is a kindergarten teacher in Oskaloosa, Iowa.



Tish Wedgbury

Ben Hummel, 174; Matt Wenninger, 184; Jon Hoksbergen, 285; and Isaac Schmidt, 285.

- Hummel was named an NAIA Scholar-Athlete for the second year in a row.

Indoor Track

- The women's 4x800 relay team of Beth Harding,

Ashley Ruppert, Nancy Koskamp and Mikyla Dittman placed seventh at the national meet March 5-6 in Johnson City, Tenn. • At the GPAC meet, the NWC women's team placed seventh and the men finished 11th. Dittman won the 600.

Red Raider Club honors four

The Northwestern College Red Raider Club presented awards to four alumni on Jan. 24. Three coaches who led their high school teams to Iowa state championships last year—Todd Arends '93 of Sioux Center, Bill Francis '88 of Hull and Gaylord Schelling '74 of Atlantic—were honored as coaches of the year, and Doug Hochstetler '89 of Alburtis, Pa., received the Barnabas Award for his role as an encourager.



Todd Arends

Arends is head boys' basketball coach and business teacher at Sioux Center Community High School. His Warriors club won the class 2A state championship last year, finishing with a 26-1 record. The team also won the Siouxland Conference with a 17-1 mark. His career mark heading into this year was 117-26 over six seasons.

Francis is guidance counselor and head boys' basketball coach at Boyden-Hull High School, which won the 2003 class 1A state title with a 26-2 record. In four years as the Comets' leader and 12 years overall as a head coach, his teams have compiled a 174-79 record. His Boyden-Hull squads finished second in the state tournament in 2001 and third in 2002.



Bill Francis



Gaylord Schelling

Schelling teaches health and weight training at Atlantic High School. As head coach, he led Atlantic's 2002 football team to the class 3A state championship with a 13-0 record. In 12 years at Atlantic, his teams have gone 117-88. He previously coached at North Polk in Alleman and Tri-Center in Neola. His Tri-Center baseball team won the state championship in 1987 and was runner-up in 1986.

Hochstetler was a member of the Red Raider football team from 1986 to 1988. He earned a master's degree in physical education from West Chester University and a doctorate in kinesiology at Penn State. An assistant professor of kinesiology at Penn State Berks-Lehigh Valley College, Hochstetler was on the faculty at Eastern Mennonite University from 1993 to 2001.



Doug Hochstetler

Football players receive national honors

Junior offensive lineman Tony Madsen headlines the list of five Red Raider football players named 2003 NAIA football All-Americans. Madsen garnered first team honors, while four of his teammates received honorable mention accolades.

Freshman linebacker Austin Janssen joins three seniors as honorable mention selections: Karlton Hector, wide receiver; Matt McCarty, defensive back; and Travis Hulstein, defensive lineman.

Two Northwestern grid-ers were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Seniors Ryan Noble and AJ Smit both received the academic honor for the second time.

NAIAFootball.Net recognized Madsen as a first team offensive line All-American, McCarty as a third team defensive back choice and Janssen as a fourth team linebacker selection. Hector, Hulstein and junior defensive back Dave Jacobs were named honorable mentions.

Baseball players to minister in Eastern Europe

Seven Northwestern baseball players will accompany Head Coach Dave Nonnemacher to Eastern Europe May 16-28 to take part in a mission trip. Senior Kelly Kleinhesselink; juniors Paul Heitritter and Austin Sunderman; sophomores Paul Menschner, Kurt Cline and Grant Lunning; and freshman Michael Janssen will travel to Moldova, a nation which achieved independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

The team members will be serving under the auspices of For God's Children International, a nondenominational ministry based in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The NWC students will offer baseball clinics for children in the city of Nisporeni, as well as in Chisinau, Moldova's capital. The players also will be working in Vulcanesti, a Gypsy village, and sharing the love and compassion of Christ with children in orphanages and schools located in western Moldova.

Alumni corner



Karen Woudstra '79, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

Have you taken any time lately to relax and reflect on where your life is and how you got there? It's interesting to see who God has put in our path through the years and how he's used many experiences to shape who we are. Looking back, we see how God strategically puts an event or someone in our life to influence us, change our perspective or minister to us at just the right time. Isn't God awesome?!

Recently I attended an alumni business forum where students gathered for pizza and pop and listened to alums tell them where life has taken them since leaving NWC. They talked about their values, what's really important and how hard it is to be a Christian in the world. They shared how faculty and classmates had encouraged them and how God has guided them in their vocational decisions. They told about many vocations like human resources, financial planning, health administration, accounting, banking and sales.

All of the alumni were thankful for the preparation they received at Northwestern, including special experiences that shaped them, such as service projects and the Chicago Semester. Past and present NWC relationships and connections were an integral part of the success they're having in their jobs.

Each semester, alumni come back to speak in classes or chapel, and students, faculty and staff love hearing their stories about how God has worked in their lives to bring growth through a variety of experiences. I wonder how often you take the time to stop and think about who influenced you in a positive way during your years at Northwestern.

Have you ever taken the time to write a note to encourage and affirm a teacher, staff member, coach, roommate or friend for being a person who impacted your life? How would you feel if you got a letter from someone telling of the influence you'd had on their life? I know it would lift me up, knowing I was used by God to build character and faith in someone else.

The Lord sends people everyday to minister to our needs, and if we are open to being used, he will send us to minister to others. Students wonder what they'll do after college, if they are studying in the right discipline, and if they are growing into a person of faith. I'm sure when you went to college, many people had faith that someday you'd get to where you are! I encourage you to affirm those who have been faithful in influencing your life.

Deaths

Anna (Rylaarsdam) '32, '34)

Lotterman, 90, died on Christmas Day at the Minnesota Veteran's Home in Luverne. After graduating from Northwestern, she taught in a country school near Middleburg and at Bellflower, Calif., Christian School. For three years during World War II, she built B-17 bombers in Long Beach. She later enlisted in the U.S. Navy WAVES, serving at the Navy Hospital in Corona, Calif. She married Dorius Lotterman in 1946. Following his death in 1950, she moved to her hometown of Chandler, Minn., where she farmed into her 70s. Among her survivors are a daughter; a son; and a sister, **Jeanette Baas '37, '39**.

Paul Teeslink '35, age 87, died Oct. 9 in Chippewa Falls, Wis. He earned his bachelor's degree at Central College and married Mary Kirkham in 1938. He worked as a design engineer at Uniroyal in Eau Claire for 42 years and helped develop the tubeless tire. Mary died in 1981, and he married **Lois (Muckey) '38) Vander Schaaf** in 1986. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Chippewa Falls, where he was an elder and taught Sunday school. Survivors include his wife, four daughters, two stepdaughters and a stepson.

The Rev. Henry Mouw '35, '37, Holland, Mich., died Nov. 30 at the age of 85. He graduated from Hope College and Western Theological Seminary. A Reformed Church in America pastor for 60 years, he ministered at New Era, Mich., Reformed Church and Sixth Reformed and First Reformed churches in Holland. He also served as senior pastor for the Board of Pensions for 19 years; a stated clerk and treasurer of the Holland Classis; a delegate to the RCA General Synod; and a member of many boards, including those of Western Seminary and NWC. Survivors include his wife, Emily; three daughters; two sisters, **Artella Bosch**

'41, '43 and Marlys Pennings '44, '46; and a brother, **Cliff '47, '49**.

Ethel (De Graaf) '39) Bogaard, age 84, died Jan. 14 at the Orange City Hospitals Long-Term Care Facility. She taught in the Floyd Rural Independent School System before marrying Clifford Bogaard in 1941. She worked alongside him for 25 years at the Tri-State Livestock Auction Company in Sioux Center. She was an organist at Newkirk Reformed Church for five years and at Orange City's Trinity Reformed Church for 48 years. She also accompanied the Sioux County Farm Bureau Chorus and many Tulip Festival night shows, served on the Sioux County Concert Series board and worked as a member of the Tulip Festival Queen's Committee. Her survivors include two daughters, **Karen Keithley '64** and **Mary Holland '72**; and a son, **Nolan '68**.

Frank Heemstra '41, '43 died at a care center in Yankton, S.D., on Jan. 27 at the age of 80. The son of Hannah and Jacob Heemstra, Northwestern's president from 1928 to 1951, Frank earned a bachelor's degree from Hope College and a master's in physics from Iowa State University. In more than 31 years as a research physicist for the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., he was involved in the development of long-range sonar systems, the study of sound propagation paths in the ocean and deep-ocean search techniques. He designed, built and operated a magnetometer system that was instrumental in locating the wreckage of submarines and an atomic bomb lost off the coast of Spain. Last October, he received Northwestern's Distinguished Professional Achievement Award. Survivors include his wife, Marian; and three brothers: **John '39, '41; Raymond '43, '45; and Howard '46, '48**.

Ed Vander Broek '49 died Nov. 12 in Folsom, Calif., at the age of 76. He served in the Army for two years

before attending Northwestern. He earned his undergraduate degree at Westmar College. He taught in Harris and Hawarden, Iowa, before moving to Santa Fe Springs, Calif., and earning a master's degree in education. He served as a principal until retiring in 1983. Among his survivors are his wife, Grayce; a daughter; two brothers; and three sisters.

Rolyn Nyhof '57, age 66, died Nov. 20 at the hospital in St. Peter, Minn. After attending Northwestern, he studied at a technical school in Springfield, S.D., and served for two years in the Army. He worked as a machinist in Minnesota, Oregon and California. He resided in St. Peter for the past 12 years. Survivors include two children; three brothers, **Harlan '53**, **Calvin '63** and **Gordon '65**; and two sisters, **Verla Joose '58**, **'61** and **Rosalee Wurpts '68**.

'62

Joe Suttle is a senior engineer with VOICEPRO, a telecommunications solution provider in the San Francisco Bay area. He and his wife, **Karen Lee Bull-Suttle**, live in Richmond, Calif.

'64

Terry (Lyftogt) Parks retired from teaching after 28 years as an educator in Iowa, Oklahoma, Missouri and Montana. Her husband, **Barry '65**, retired in 2002 as director of human relations for Positronic Industries. He has been battling colon cancer but is doing very well. The Parks live in Springfield, Mo., and enjoy spending time with their six grandchildren.

'68

Ross Ballou lives in Japan, where he teaches for the Department of Defense Education Activity. He is a retired Army lieutenant colonel.

'70

The Rev. Dr. Mark Kraai was elected as General Synod Professor of Theology at the Reformed Church in America's General Synod last summer. He serves as director of supervised ministry and associate professor of practical theology at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey.

'72

Reginald Joules, Frisco, Texas, has launched a Web site for his family business, Ushar Enterprises. The site, www.trainingwheels.info, provides scientific-based techniques to help parents train their children to ride bike.

Debra (Van Aartsen) Parker, Jefferson, S.D., works for Indian Health Services (IHS) as a diabetes program director for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. She joined IHS in 1987 after earning a master's degree from the University of South Dakota.

'73

Cornie Wassink, Alton, Iowa, was named the Girls' Track and Field Official of the Year by the Iowa Association of Track Coaches in December. Because of that honor, he will serve as the girls' starter for the Spotlight All-Star Meet, featuring teams from six Midwestern states, next June in Cedar Falls.

'74

Lorene W. Dykstra is recovering from donating a kidney to her aunt in early November. The high school principal in Maquoketa, Iowa, Dykstra was named the Maquoketa Rotary Club's Citizen of the Week in early December.

Mark Swalley, principal and head football coach at Denver Christian High School, led his team to Colorado's Class 2A state championship in November. He was selected as the Denver Broncos' High School Coach of the Year for 2003,



Residence Hall Directors

Northwestern has positions available for male and female residence hall directors to begin Aug. 1. Candidates should possess a B.A. degree in a related field. A master's degree in student personnel or a related field, with professional experience in residence life, is preferred. The positions are full time, including additional responsibilities in student development, and are based on a 10-month contract ending May 31.

Searches are under way; send a letter of application, résumé and transcript to the address below. Applications can be completed online, or downloaded as PDF files, at www.nwciowa.edu/about/employment/

Eric Anderson
Director of Residence Life
Northwestern College
208 8th St. SW
Orange City, IA 51041
eanderson@nwciowa.edu
712-707-7200

Northwestern College complies with federal and state regulations concerning nondiscrimination in employment. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

for which he won \$2,000 for his squad's program and was featured at the NFL team's game against Cleveland on Dec. 14. Swalley's 12-1 Crusaders outscored their opposition by a combined 408-59, winning four shutouts and ending the postseason with a string of 10 consecutive scoreless quarters.

'78

The Rev. Dr. Steven Macchia was named in September as director of the Pierce Center for Disciple Building at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass. He previously

served as president of Vision New England.

'80

Ross Simmelink became assessor for Sioux County, Iowa, in January. He was Palo Alto County assessor in Emmetsburg since 1986.

'81

Lori (Solberg) Soukup earned an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix and a doctorate in applied management of the decision sciences from Walden University. She teaches critical thinking, research methods and various general educa-

Mini profile



During Dave Schutt's Middle Eastern trip on behalf of the Reformed Church in America last fall, Pope Shenoudah of the Coptic Orthodox Church told of his love for teaching a weekly Bible study in Cairo, Egypt, that is attended by 7,000 people.

by Amy Scheer

Listen to the Rev. Dave Schutt '70 talk about Christ Community Church or the Reformed Church in America (RCA), and you'll note that he peppers his speech with a word that tells of a unifying theme: *transformation*.

"What I see happening in our denomination is a transformation, in many ways: a transformation of clarity of direction, a transformation in what we are doing to train pastors, transformation in our ecumenical and mission partnerships," says Schutt, who was elected to a one-year term as president of the RCA's General

Synod last June.

As he travels around the country hearing of the needs of congregations, Schutt sees a vision among church leaders to help redefine the RCA's role as a denomination. They're asking, "What does 37 years of decline [in membership] mean? How do we turn that around?"

A 10-year goal, approved at last summer's General Synod assembly, is one solution. This plan to revitalize existing congregations and plant new ones mirrors the process begun five years ago by Christ Community Church in Carmichael, Calif., which Schutt has pastored since 1993. Leaders of the 1,000-

Schutt serves as General Synod president

member church took time in 1999 to refocus their vision and goals, and in the last three years they have seen visible signs of God's work—among them a dramatic increase in attendance by young adults and in people participating in their annual river baptism.

A recent capital campaign for a new site plan raised \$2.5 million in pledges, and plans to plant a daughter church are now under way. "It is a wonderful gift from God," Schutt says, that he's in a church committed to the same goals held by the RCA.

Northwestern is doing its part to aid the revitalization of churches, says Schutt, the father of Kendra Carlson '01. He adds that training students in youth ministry and the worship arts fulfills a great need in the life of the church.

"These are key, specific ways Northwestern benefits the denomination. To see Northwestern helping prepare people like that for ministry is very exciting," says Schutt, who recently completed an eight-year term on

Northwestern's Board of Trustees.

In October, Schutt participated in a 10-member delegation of RCA leaders to Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Israel/Palestine. After visits to Palestinian refugee camps, churches and the once bustling but now deserted Bethlehem, Schutt's views were transformed, he says. He gained a new perspective on the ripple effect of U.S. policies on the Middle East, the injustices done to Palestinians, the difficulty of being a Christian there. At the same time, he was heartened by the commitment to Scripture shown by the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Transformed views, transformed churches, transformed lives: Schutt is grateful to stand as a witness to God's work in the RCA.

"Truly, it has been a broadening experience for me. Even though the presidency carries a certain amount of responsibility, it is a rich, rich opportunity to be able to serve the church in this way," he says.

tion courses for the University of Phoenix/Nevada Campus and accounting for the Community College of Southern Nevada. She also teaches online courses and conducts new faculty workshops for the University of Phoenix. A small group administrator at New

Hope Lutheran Church, she and her husband, Steve, live in Las Vegas.

'89

Todd Huesman, Sheldon, Iowa, has been appointed director of the Northwest Iowa Community

College Foundation. He was a student services coordinator at the college since 2000.

Holly (Donaghy) Udesky has joined the legal department of Navistar Financial Group as a senior legal assistant. Holly remains active in

community theatre, currently performing in the musical *Baby* in Vernon Hills, Ill., where she lives with her husband, Michael, and three daughters, Katelyn, Megan and Michaela.

Prayercorner



The Rev. Harlan
VanOort '82
Chaplain

Please pray for Northwestern College. Join in what I consider a list of regular, obvious, often-mentioned, generally agreed-upon prayers heard around campus:

- Praise and thanksgiving for God's faithful light in Northwestern's past, present and future.
- That Northwestern would continue to integrate Christian faith, learning and living, which prepares students for lives of service in the reign of Christ.
- That many high school graduates would be drawn to study at Northwestern.
- For generous giving of financial resources and good stewardship of them.
- That students would discover God's calling in their lives.
- That students would get enough sleep and manage their time well.
- That faculty and staff would endure with excellence and compassion.
- That students would be encouraged, even when challenged.
- That students would follow instruction, study hard and do well.
- For community, blessed by the fellowship of God's Spirit.
- That the Red Raiders would be victorious in competition, character and teamwork.

Thank you, O God, for answering our prayers. With humility and gratitude we press on as you have called us to participate in the work of your hands at Northwestern. Amen.

'91

Deb (Falkena) Russell, Cambridge, Iowa, completed her medical transcription certificate at Des Moines Area Community College in August. She now works for Trans-Tech, a medical transcription service, while staying at home with her three children, Nathan (7), Anna (3) and Amanda (2).

'92

David Van Den Brink has been promoted to vice president at Security State Bank in Sheldon, Iowa. His major responsibilities are agricultural and commercial lending. He has

been with the bank for the past five years as an assistant vice president.

Vonda Van Farowe is in her eighth year of teaching high school social studies. She has spent the last six years at inner-city Jefferson High in Portland, Ore. She is finishing her master's degree in interdisciplinary humanities at Reed College.

Brad Van Kalsbeek is now the chief financial officer for Adams Thermal Systems in Canton, S.D.

'93

Janel (Schwartz) Even is a staff assis-

tant and teacher's aide for the University of South Dakota's Head Start program. She says she enjoys being able to work in an office setting and help with the children whenever a sub is needed. Janel and her husband, Leo, live in Vermillion, S.D.

Erin Christensen Schlittenhart was ordained into the ministry at Lakewood Baptist Church, Lakewood, Ohio. She and her husband, Brent, live near Honolulu and work for Wayland Baptist University.

'96

Eileen (Ringnald) Barron, Salt Lake City, is a public involvement manager with Parsons Brinckerhoff and is completing a doctoral degree in communication at the University of Utah. Her husband, James, is a civil engineer.

Brian Greller lives in Seattle, where he works for Olive Crest Foster Agency as a case manager, parent training coordinator and informal information technology consultant.

Joy Hanson is a social worker for Denver Public Schools. She earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Denver in 1999.

Steve Van Gorp is a trade sales representative for Diamond Vogel Paints. He lives in Sioux Center.

'97

Bruce De Groot earned a Ph.D. in animal breeding and genetics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln recently. He is a statistical computer programmer at MDs-Pharma Services in Lincoln. He and his wife, Kim, have a son, Anthony.

'98

Jamie Schmeling is in her second year of the M.Div. program at Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Mich. Prior to sensing this call, she completed a master's degree in biology at the University of Toledo.

'99

Brady Aalbers made the Dec. 22 issue of *ESPN The Magazine* in an article about Hank Aaron's oldest record—being number one alphabetically in baseball's all-time player registry. The article noted that Aalbers would have been a challenger for that title but ended his baseball career at the Class A minor league level.

Rachel Bonnema has moved to Pittsburgh for her medical residency in internal medicine/women's health.

Jeff Hall is completing work on a doctorate at Kansas State University. His wife, **Amy (Risler)**, is in her fourth year as an interrelated special

Career Development Center to discard old credential files

Beginning January 2005, the Career Development Center will be purging any alumni files that have not been accessed since January 1995. (Documents in the credential file include personal data sheet, unofficial transcripts, student teacher evaluations and references. Your official transcript is not part of your credential file; transcripts and other academic records are maintained in the registrar's office.)

Please contact the Career Development Center (cdc@nwciowa.edu) if you do not wish to have your credential file purged and would like to update it.

education teacher at Westwood Elementary in Junction City, Kan.

Tim Harskamp is in his second year in the Earlham, Iowa, School District. He teaches seventh and eighth grade science, coaches middle school boys' basketball and serves as an assistant varsity football coach. This summer, he will work for the Iowa Cubs grounds crew.

Heather (Finkelstein) Huey's husband, Patrick, died of Hodgkin's disease on Feb. 2 at the age of 30. She can be contacted via her Web site, www.heatherandpatrick.com.

Janine (DeVries) McClintock operates a photography studio in Council Bluffs, Iowa, specializing in photos of weddings and children. Her husband, Jonathan, teaches chemistry and physics at Glenwood High School.

Wes Treadway is program director for KCIM radio and graphics designer for 10TV in Carroll, Iowa.

Londa Wassink, Sioux Falls, received a Master of Education degree with a leadership in reading concentration from the University of Sioux Falls (USF) in 2002. She teaches second

grade in Dell Rapids and graduate workshops at USF.

Timothy Wood is completing a master's degree at the University of Freiburg, Germany, in English philology (with an emphasis in linguistics), Roman philology (with an emphasis in French literature) and German philosophy. He also has been involved in translating, teaching English and conducting pharmaceutical research.

'00

Adam Boerema serves as a home mortgage consultant for the Farmers State Banks in the southeastern South Dakota communities of Tea, Marion, Parker, Bridgewater and Humboldt. His wife, **Candace (Hup '99)**, is a stay-at-home mom. The Boeremas live in Tea.

Austin and Anne (Neerhof) Hellbusch live in Belmond, Iowa, where Austin teaches seventh and eighth grade science and seventh grade social studies. He also is the head coach for the Belmond-Klemme High School boys' varsity basketball team. Anne is finishing her fourth year of medical school at Des Moines University and in the

process of choosing a family practice residency program.

Erica (Huyser) Kluver works as a human resources generalist for Briggs Corporation in West Des Moines.

Tom and Sara (Katzenberger) Scholtens continue to live in Boston, where he has finished his course work at New England College of Optometry. His clinical rotations have included a hospital in South Africa and a community health center and veterans' hospital eye clinic in Boston. Sara teaches fourth grade at the Conservatory Lab Charter School.

Angela Weiland is a full-time missionary in the Netherlands, ministering to students at Tyndale Theological Seminary just outside of Amsterdam. She received a master's degree in world evangelization from Tyndale in 2002.

'01

Stephen Bloom works for Bloom Farms near Marathon, Iowa. His wife, Melanie, is a vocational agriculture teacher and FFA adviser for the Sioux Central School District.

Elizabeth Heeg-Truesdell is pursuing a doctorate in the interdepartmental biological sciences program at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. Her husband, **Tom**, is completing a master's degree in writing at DePaul University in Chicago, where he serves as the loop office and ESL coordinator of the university writing centers. The Truesdells report they're just beginning to deal with the Chicago Cubs' infamous collapse last fall.

Justin Schrock is the minister of youth and young adults at Calvary Church in Ripon, Calif. His wife, **Vicki (Dykstra)**, resigned after two years at Bethany Christian Services to stay at home full time with their two children.

Katie Severson is a residence life coordinator for freshman women at Crown College in the Twin Cities.

'02

Jason Bonnema is a mutual funds analyst for Standard and Poors in Des Moines.

Jessica Laaveg teaches English and coaches theatre and speech at Algona, Iowa, High School.

Adam Sperling is working as the resident camp director of Eagle Lake Camps and the Glen Eyrie Conference Center in Colorado Springs. Eagle Lake is the Navigators' youth camp.

'03

James De Vos teaches high school science in Alta, Iowa. His wife, **Jaylene (Wiersema)**, is substitute teaching and serving as an assistant speech coach in Alta. They live in Aurelia.

Beau and Rebecca (Vander Molen) Koerselman are both employed at the Freeman Academy in Freeman, S.D.

Alumni: What's New with You?

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: Office of Public Relations, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail to beeson@nwcioa.edu; fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the summer *Classic* is April 30.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Home Phone _____ Class of _____
 E-Mail _____
 Current Employer(s) _____

New Arrivals

- Jeffrey and **Rose (Gross '82) Wignall**, daughter by adoption from India, Rachel Clare-Shobha (2), joins Timothy, Zachariah, Emily and Isaac.
- Rod and **Laura (De Geest '87) Magg**, daughter by adoption, Heather Nicole, joins Bethany (5).
- Sondra (Ten Braak '89) and Bill Francis '88**, son, Dylan Spencer, joins Taylor (10), Riley (7) and Carter (3).
- Mike and **Brenda (Zomermaand '90 Colby**, son, Daniel Ethan, joins Luke (9), Elizabeth (7) and Aaron (5).
- Randy and **Marsha (Koel '90) Meyer**, daughter, Kaeley Marie, joins Emily (2).
- Melissa and **Mark Van Holland '90**, daughter, Vivian Hope, joins Vanessa (4).
- Mark and **Beth (Ryan '91) Cullen**, daughter, Meghan Ann.
- Darwan and **Janice (Van De Stroet '91) Scholten**, son, Brayden John.
- Rick and **Debra (Solomonson '92 Acosta**, son, Justin Roger, joins Craig (5).
- Jim and **Sandra (Tew '92) Heeren**, daughter, Grace Ann, joins Tucker (2).
- Mark and **Jody (Kroon '92) Nieuwendorp**, son, Grant Lee, joins Gerrit (2).
- Candace and **Scott Van Egdome '92**, daughter, Katie Danelle, joins Keegan (5) and Kylee (3).
- Gina (Mast '93) and Jason Smits '94**, daughter, Jillian Marie, joins John (4) and Jared (2).
- Jennifer and **Noel Scheaffer '95**, son, Josiah Noel, joins Graham (1).
- Roger and **Lori (McDonald '95) Van Beek**, daughter, Callie Jo.
- Stephen and **Stephanie (Churchill '96) Ling**, daughter, Katrianna Sophia.
- Nikki (Hulstein '96) and Greg Terpstra '96**, daughter, Morgan Lynn, joins Peyton (2).
- Kurt and **Jenifer (Simm '96) Van Noord**, son, Blaze Kurtis.
- Matt and **Sheila (Jones '96) Van Riesen**, son, Logan Matthew.

Seeking Distinguished Alumni Nominations

The Northwestern alumni office seeks nominations for future Alumni of the Year nominees. Candidates should be alumni of the academy, junior college or college, or have attended the junior college for one year or the college for three semesters. Candidates must have been out of college at least five years and not currently be an officer of the Alumni Association.

Three awards are presented:

Distinguished Professional Achievement: This person shows leadership, competence, dedication and continuing education and integrity in his/her chosen profession.

Distinguished Service to Humankind: This person shows leadership abilities in service to the community and/or society at large through notable Christian contributions.

Distinguished Service to Northwestern College: This person shows loyalty to the mission of Northwestern College, continued interest and support of the goals of NWC, and reflects honor upon the college by his/her Christian lifestyle.

Nomination for:

- _____ Distinguished Professional Achievement
 _____ Distinguished Service to Humankind
 _____ Distinguished Service to NWC

Nominee's Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

Occupation and Title _____

Reason for Nomination (Use additional sheet if needed)

Your Name and Phone _____

Please send to: Alumni Relations, NWC, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041

Fax: 712-707-7117

E-mail: karenw@nwc-iowa.edu

Mailbag

Just a note to say that I always enjoy the *Classic*, but found the last issue especially good. Great articles, pleasing layout and a wide range of topics that captured the scope of NWC. Present students, faculty, alumni and the vision that those people carry into their respective corners of the world. The magazine reminded me again of how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to graduate from such a fine school, one that has adapted to the culture without compromising her Christian convictions. NWC was a good school when I was there. Reading the *Classic*, I can tell it's even better now.

Todd A. Thompson '85
Chandler, Ariz.

Robert and Stephanie (Hutchcraft '97) Hamby, twins, Ian Brody Davis and Alexandria Suzanne, join Tyler (8) and Mitchell (5).
Tina (Jackson '97) and Derek Vande Slunt '97, son, Noah David.
Tricia (Reynen '97) and Brian Veenendaal '95, daughter, Brinn Elizabeth, joins Brett (5) and Taylor (3).
Candace (Hup '99) and Adam Boerema '00, daughter, Margaret, joins Owen (3).
Cora (Bleeker '99) and Marlon Haverdink '97, daughter, Emily Kate.
Rachel (De Groot '01) and Travis Popken '99, daughter, Addison Ann.
Andrew and Kylie (Van Dyke '01) Prasuhn, son, Jacob Arie, joins Trenton (1).
Vicki (Dykstra '01) and Justin Schrock '01, son, Caleb Philip, joins Angelique Jo (1).

Dave and Abi (Seymour '01) Van Regenmorter, son, Blake Harold.

Marriages

Erin Christensen '93 and Brent Schlittenhart, Ewa Beach, Hawaii.
Eileen Ringnald '96 and James Barron, Salt Lake City.
Rachel Govig '97 and Kedron Bardwell, Holland, Mich.
Erica Huyser '00 and Chad Kluver, West Des Moines.
Stephen Bloom '01 and Melanie Hjelm, Marathon, Iowa.
Kim Ortman '01 and Marc Caifano, Chicago.
Bryan Branderhorst '02 and Tracey Halma '03, Diamond Bar, Calif.
Rebecca Vander Molen '03 and Beau Koerselman '03, Freeman, S.D.

The couples reside in the city listed.

National Alumni Board meets

Members of Northwestern's National Alumni Board who gathered for their annual meeting in February included: (front row, left to right) Trent Sorbe '93, Dana (Smith '93) Daniels, Cheri (Block '77) Meyn, Nancy (Walhof '87) Landhuis, Karen (Hop '74) Van Der Maaten, Brian Draayer '91, Sharla (Vander Wilt '83) Clemens, Evonne (Vander Wilt '82) Blankers; (second row) Dawn Huibregtse '98, Steve Van Gorp '96, Perry Krosschell '87, Curt Mastbergen '84, Clark Scholten '87, Dan Van Beek '92, Jennifer (Van Der Werff '89) Zora, Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra; (third row) Sherri (Van Der Vliet '82) Koerselman, Laurie (Wipperling '92) Van Engelenhoven, Tonya Van Peursem '94, Ann (Sybesma '93) Korver, Ann (Schutte '81) Finkner, Dave Hughes '86, Dean Koele '83.

Mission trip opportunity for alumni

Students say one hallmark of the Northwestern experience is the many opportunities to serve others—and the community that's formed when you do that with others who love Christ and NWC. Sound like something you'd like to be a part of? Here's your chance: We are looking for alumni interested in serving Christians in Mexico during a one-week mission trip.

This trip will be a rich cross-cultural experience with opportunities for deep relationships and meaningful service. We will be working with Christian ministries like churches, orphanages or schools, providing encouragement and helping with construction projects. No experience is needed—just willing hearts. The trip is tentatively planned for next fall or winter. Friends and family of alumni also are welcome. For more information or to express your interest, please contact the alumni office, 712-707-7106 or alumni@nwcwiowa.edu.

The alumni office is partnering with Initiatives International (www.initiativesinternational.org) to offer a high-quality mission experience.



Coming Home

by Ernest Reineke '88

The need to come back to a person's roots is a very compelling desire. That desire may be to return to your hometown, but it also may mean going to your ancestral roots.

I can only imagine what it was like for my great-grandfather, at the age of 16, to leave northern Germany for an unknown land called Iowa. I am sure Johannes Reineke, a versatile musician, would dream about his homeland while playing folk songs from his native country. I've heard stories about how, in the cold winter evenings, he would step out onto the second-story balcony of his farmhouse and play music on his flute. The neighbors remember hearing him play his beautiful melodies as if serenading a distant land.

Being raised with such vivid memories of my own family of pioneers sparked a quest that would span over 20 years. In 1984, right after I graduated from high school, I was asked by my family to stay with my grandparents, who were suffering from illnesses. My grandfather had cancer, my grandmother had a broken leg, and they needed someone to help take care of them.

While I was there, I asked if I could see any old pictures that could be used

to help in my grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary celebration that would take place that summer. Of course, there was a trunk in the attic that was filled with pictures. I brought down several and asked my grandfather who were in the photos. He was surprised I didn't know any of the people. He simply said, "Those are my wedding pictures." At that point, all of the pictures came out of the attic, and we spent a lot of time documenting the people in the pictures—a memory I cherish.

My path then would lead me to Northwestern College with dreams of a career in music. In one of Dr. Rodney Jiskoot's lectures, he talked about going to his ancestral home in the Netherlands and performing a concert in his family's church. My imagination was sparked by this great idea, and I carried the dream of performing a concert in my ancestral home for another 15 years.

My wife, Melodee, and I recently found the opportunity to travel to Europe and fulfill my lifelong dream. We were welcomed by the former mayor of Boklund, Bruno Paulsen, and his wife, Lotte. Because of the language barrier, a student from the area high school served as our interpreter. They were so generous with their time,



Ernest and Melodee Reineke performed a concert in the German church of his great-grandfather.

and they gave us a photo album that Bruno had collected, showing pictures of area sites important to the Reineke family. The most important places were the church and the home of my ancestors.

I really wanted to see the home where my great-grandfather was raised. That was possible because their home is now a bakery. It was by far the most enjoyable cup of coffee I had through the entire trip!

But the cornerstone of the trip was the concert. The Lutheran Church of Boklund had fliers throughout the entire town advertising a concert by Melodee and me. With my wife at the organ and me at the keyboard, we were able to play songs like *Kumbaya*, *Amazing Grace* and *They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love*. Even with the language barrier, the congregation would spontaneously hum along with our playing, which was a very moving experience.

But my dream wouldn't be complete unless I played

the organ myself. For the final hymn, I realized my dream had come true. I was sitting at the console of the organ in the church where my ancestors were married, baptized and learned of a Savior who transcends generations—a church where perhaps my great-grandfather had played music in a place that I can truly call ... home.

An instrumental and vocal music major while at Northwestern, Ernest Reineke earned a master's degree in music at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) and has taken 30 hours of post-graduate classes at Buena Vista University. He teaches vocal/general music at Roosevelt Middle School in Mason City, Iowa. His wife, Melodee (Weisbrod '88), received a master's degree in education from UNI in 1993. She is an adjunct faculty member for Buena Vista University and organist in three area churches. The Reinekes live in Clear Lake with their daughters, Kirsten (7) and Kara (3).

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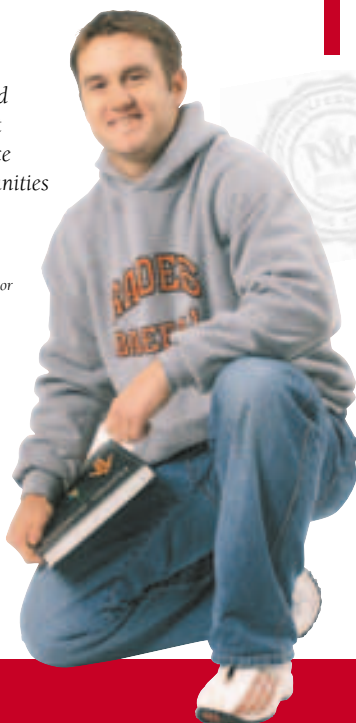
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Last summer I spent nine weeks in Ghana as part of the Summer of Service program. While meeting people's physical needs through medical missions, I learned a lot about following Christ's example of behind-the-scenes service. I've also been involved with local hunger and homeless ministries at Northwestern, as well as short-term mission trips to Amsterdam and the Czech Republic. These experiences have given me a larger perspective on the diversity God created and the way God is working through different cultures. *Your donation to the Northwestern Fund helps create opportunities for students like me to serve the Lord both locally and abroad.*

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